THE

SPEECH

OF

Sr Edw: Turnor Kt.

Speaker of the Honourable Houſe of

COMMONS,

TO THE

KINGS

Moſt Excellent *Majeſty*,

And both Houſes of

PARLIAMENT;

Delivered at Oxford, *on* Tueſday *the One and thirtieth day of* October, 1665. *at the Prorogation of the Parliament.*

LONDON:
Printed by *John Bill* and *Chriſtopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1665.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

603

THE SPEECH OF Sr. Edw. Turnor, Kt.

Speaker of the Honourable Houſe of

COMMONS,

TO THE

KINGS

Moſt Excellent *Majeſty*,

And both Houſes of

PARLIAMENT.

Delivered at Oxford, *on* Tueſday *the* 31. *of* October, 1665. *at the Prorogation of the Parliament.*

May it pleaſe Your moſt Excellent Majeſty,

THe Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Commons Houſe of Parliament, in obedience to Your Majeſties Writ of Adjournment, came chearfully to this City of *Oxford*, to receive Your Royal Commands: And when Your Ma-

684

Lof

jesty was pleased to speak to them, and acquaint them with Your great Expences this Summer, and the continuing Insolencies of the *Dutch*. They were so inflamed with an Affection and Zeal for Your Majesties Service, that they could not suffer the least Punct o of time to pass, before they had made a Return suitable to their Engagements, That they would assist Your Majesty with their Lives and Fortunes, against the *Dutch*, or any others that should assist them, in opposition of Your Majesty: ---*Tibi nos, tibi nostra suppellex-- turaque servierint.*

The English Man useth to speak, as he writes; and the English Parliament, to speak as they think: No Security upon Earth can be greater then the Engagement of your Two Houses of Parliament. *Sed quid verba audiam, cum facta videam?* As a Demonstration of their Fidelity, I am commanded to present unto Your Majesty this Bill, whereby they have given You for a present Supply, Twelve hundred and fifty thousand pounds, to be levied in two years; to begin from *Christmas* next, by Quarterly Payments, added to the former *Royal Aid*.

And to the end Your Majesties Occasions may be supplied with ready Money, before this additional Aid can be raised, We have by this Bill prepared an undoubted Security, for all such Persons as shall bring their Money into the Publick Bank of Your Exchequer. As the Rivers do naturally empty themselves into the Sea, so We hope the Veins of Gold and Silver in this Nation,

Nation, will plentifully run into this Ocean, for the Maintenance of Your Majesties just Sovereignty on the Seas.

Great Sir! When first We besought Your Majesty to correct the Insolencies, and to repair Your Subjects against the Rapines of the *Dutch*; We did reasonably suppose, That the Justice of Your Majesties Demands, would, at least, have had a fair and ingenious Reception: But the *Dutch* resolved, with *Machiavil*, to keep by Force what they had got by Wrong, and to return their Answer by the Thundring voice of their Canon. The Great GOD of Hosts, to whom Vengeance belongs, hath eminently appeared in Your Majesties Quarrel, and sharply rebuked the insolence of that proud People, whose heart is hardened even to destruction.

'Tis true, our sins do cry aloud, as well as theirs; but God is pleased in mercy to correct us himself, whilst by our hands he doth punish them, and make them fly before us. I hope this mercy will invite us to a National Repentance: And if God be with us, who then can be against us?

We cannot but take notice of the Sordid defection of some *English* Fugitives, who have traiterously joyned with the *Dutch*, both in their Counsels and Actions, against your Majesty, and this their native Countrey: We therefore have prepared a Bill, whereby they are injoyned to

return by a day, and answer to the Law, or else they shall be attainted, and be subject to the Paines and Penalties of Condemned Traitours.

It hath been an old observation, that Scandalous Livings make Scandalous Ministers; and this most frequently falls out in Cities and Corporate Towns, where are little or no prædial Tythes, and therefore the Preachers for meer want are forced to chaunt such tunes as may best please the Rich men in their Parishes: For prevention of this for the future, there is a Bill prepared for the uniting of small Churches and Chappels in Cities and Towns Corporate, by the consent of the Patron, reserving all other Parochial rites distinct as they were before.

This being a time wherein Your Majesty needs great Supplies, We held it our duty to ease the People in some unnecessary Expences; and therefore we have prepared a Bill for the more effectual proceeding upon Distresses and Avowryes for Rents; another to avoid Circuity of Actions; and a third, to lessen the charge of necessary Suits in Law. There is an ancient fee received in your Majesties Courts of Law, called Damage Cleere, or *Damna Clericorum*, which is the tenth penny of such Damages as are there recovered in many actions: This was first introduced for the encouragement of Clerks, to employ themselves, to the study of drawing

drawing ſpecial Pleadings, which are grown ſo familiar by the diſ-uſe of Real actions, that the Fee now is looked upon as a grievance: eſpecially when the Plaintiff is forced to pay it upon the ſigning of his Judgement, and perhaps the Defendant is not able to anſwer any part of the Execution: therefore we have prepared a Bill for the regulating of this for the preſent, and after ſeven years to take it quite away.

Tacitus hath a ſaying, *Such as are falſe in their love, are true in their hate*; And this Rule we find verified in our Nonconformiſts. Whilſt they were in the Boſom of the Church of *England*, they were like inward Vapours, and inward Bleedings, always oppreſſing and ſtrangling the Body of the Church; and now they are Ejected and Excluded from their Miniſterial Function, they have more malice, and no leſs opportunity to propagate their Principles, then they had before. Some of them are objects of pity, they ſubmitted their Reaſon to their Leaders, of a higher Claſſis, who failed them in their hopes, and left them to the rigour of the Law: Theſe poor creatures have ſeen their errour, and feel the ſmart, and would live peaceably; but their Jeſuitical Leaders keep up their ſpirits, and Herd with [illegible] in Cities and Corporate Towns, where, by pretence of Perſecution and Self-denial, they move the pity of good natur'd people, and with their Charity keep

keep up their Party, lessen the Maintenance of Conforming Ministers, and spread their Contagion amongst the Youth of the Nation. For the prevention of this growing mischief, we have prepared a Statute, a Test to distinguish amongst them who will be peaceable, and give hopes of future Conformity, and who of malice and evil disposition remain obdurate. The one we shall keep amongst us with all Love and Charity, the other we shall exclude from Cities and Corporated Towns, like those that have an infectious Disease upon them.

It is not unusual for the Commons, at the close of a Session of Parliament, by their Speaker to present a Petition to their Sovereign: and with Your Majesties leave, I am now commanded that Service.

We do with all humble thankfulness to God, acknowledge our great happiness, that we are govern'd by a Prince, whose Prudence in Counsel, whose Valour in Action, and whose Fatherly Care in Protection of his People, is eminent through all the world: and it is no the least mercy, both to Your Majesty and Your People, that God hath blessed You with a Brother so like Your self.

The

The name of His Royal Highneſs is already Inrol'd amongſt the Heroes of other Nations; but this His Native Country had not ſo great experience of Him, till Your Majeſty was pleaſed in this Summers Expedition to truſt Him with the Conduct of the moſt Royal Fleet that ever ſailed upon the *Britiſh Seas*; wherein He ſhewed that Proweſs, and that Prudence, and by the bleſſing of Almighty God, was Crowned with that Succeſs againſt the *Dutch*, that we cannot paſs it by in ſilence, and yet we are at a loſs how to expreſs our Thanks both to Your Majeſty, and to Him: I am commanded therefore to beſeech Your Majeſty, that You will vouchſafe to let us make a Preſent to You, of a Moneths Tax, to come in the Rear, after the Four and twenty Moneths of Your Majeſties *Royal Aid*, and that Your Majeſty will be pleaſed to beſtow it upon His Royal Highneſs.

And now, *Great Sir*, I have no more, but to beſeech Almighty God, who hath ſo miraculouſly preſerved Your Royal Perſon, and Your two Houſes of Parliament from all Sickneſs, and Contagion, during this Seſſion, that he will be pleaſed to ſend Health

keep up their Party, lessen the Maintenance of Conforming Ministers, and spread their Contagion amongst the Youth of the Nation. For the prevention of this growing mischief, we have prepared a Bill, a Test to distinguish amongst them who will be peaceable, and give hopes of future Conformity, and who of malice and evil disposition remain obdurate. The one we shall keep amongst us with all Love and Charity, the other we shall exclude from Cities and Corporated Towns, like those that have an infectious Disease upon them.

It is not unusual for the Commons, at the close of a Session of Parliament, by their Speaker to present a Petition to their Sovereign: and with Your Majesties leave, I am now commanded that Service.

We do with all humble thankfulness to God, acknowledge our great happiness, that we are govern'd by a Prince, whose Prudence in Counsel, whose Valour in Action, and whose Fatherly Care in Protection of his People, is eminent through all the world: and it is not the least mercy, both to Your Majesty and Your People, that God hath blessed You with a Brother so like Your self.

The

The name of His Royal Highneſs is already Inrol'd amongſt the Heroes of other Nations; but this His Native Country had not ſo great experience of Him, till Your Majeſty was pleaſed in this Summers Expedition to truſt Him with the Conduct of the moſt Royal Fleet that ever ſailed upon the *Britiſh Seas*; wherein He ſhewed that Proweſs, and that Prudence, and by the bleſſing of Almighty God, was Crowned with that Succeſs againſt the *Dutch*, that we cannot paſs it by in ſilence, and yet we are at a loſs how to expreſs our Thanks both to Your Majeſty, and to Him: I am commanded therefore to beſeech Your Majeſty, that You will vouchſafe to let us make a Preſent to You, of a Moneths Tax, to come in the Rear, after the Four and twenty Moneths of Your Majeſties *Royal Aid*, and that Your Majeſty will be pleaſed to beſtow it upon His Royal Highneſs.

And now, *Great Sir*, I have no more, but to beſeech Almighty God, who hath ſo miraculouſly preſerved Your Royal Perſon, and Your two Houſes of Parliament from all Sickneſs, and Contagion, during this Seſſion, that he will be pleaſed to ſend Health

(687)

throughout the Nation, that he will Crown all Your Designs against your Enemies with Victory and Success, and give Your Majesty a long and Happy Reign over us.

LONDON,

Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1665.